

ALASKA TRIBAL-STATE FORUM ON SAFETY AND JUSTICE

***Norton Sound Region
July 22-23, 2008
Nome, Alaska***

REPORT



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Sponsored by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

In partnership with the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Department of Law, Alaska Court System, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Alaska Native Justice Center.

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Tribal-State Forum on Safety and Justice Agenda
Nome Mini Convention Center
Nome, Alaska
July 22-23, 2008

TUESDAY

- 8:00-8:30** *Registration*
- 8:30-9:00** *Welcome, Announcements and Introductions*
Opening Prayer – Bruce Landry, Pastor, Nome Community Baptist Church
- 9:00-9:40** **Domestic Violence Basics**
Patti Bland, Director of Training, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and Janet Ahmasuk, Bering Sea Women's Group
Break
- 9:45 -10:25** **Healing Our Spirits and Rebuilding Community**
Mary Miller, Nome
Break
- 10:35-11:25** **The Role of Law Enforcement and Mandatory Arrest**
Sergeant Andrew Merrill, Alaska State Troopers, Nome
Break
- 11:30 -12:20** **Protective Orders, Divorce and Child Custody**
Jenn King, Attorney, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Pro Bono Project
- 12:20-1:20** *Lunch*
- 1:20 -1:30** **Question and Answers**
- 1:30-2:10** **Elder Abuse**
Patti Bland, Director of Training, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Break
- 2:15-2:55** **Practical Skills For Victim Advocacy and Safety Planning**
Christine King, Project Coordinator Center for Human Development, UAA and Patti Bland, Director of Training, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Break
- 3:05-3:55** **Advocacy and Safety Planning (continued)**
Break
- 4:00-4:50** **Advocacy for Survivors with Substance Use Issues**
Patti Bland, Director of Training, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- 4:50-5:00** **Question and Answers**

WEDNESDAY

- 8:15-8:30 *Registration*
- 8:30-9:20 **State Domestic Violence Laws and Prosecutorial Decision-Making - Plead, Dismiss or Trial**
John Earthman, District Attorney, Nome Office of the District Attorney
Break
- 9:25-10:15 **Victims' Rights and Victim/Witness Paralegals**
Maureen (Mo) Koezuna, Victim/Witness Paralegal, Nome Office of the District Attorney
Break
- 10:25- 11:15 **The Role of the Courts in Protection Orders and Sentencing**
Honorable Ben Esch, Nome Superior Court, Alaska Court System
Break
- 11:20-12:00 **Alaska Native Justice and Domestic Violence**
Linda McLaughlin, Advocate Coordinator, Alaska Native Justice Center and
Kevin Illingworth, JD, Professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- 12:00-1:00 *Lunch*
- 1:00-1:10 **Questions and Answers**
- 1:10-2:00 **Tribal Jurisdictions and Tribal Courts**
Kevin Illingworth, JD, Professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Linda McLaughlin, Victim
Advocate/Trainer, Alaska Native Justice Center
Break
- 2:05 – 2:55 **Legal Advocacy Review**
Andrea Browning, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Legal Advocacy
Project
Break
- 3:05– 3:55 **Challenges and Solutions Work Session**
- 3:55- 4:15 **Challenges and Solutions Reports**
Break
- 4:20-4:30 **Evaluations**

Participants



Norton Sound Region Participants

Forty-five (45) participants attended the two-day training held at the Mini Convention Center in Nome. Twenty-eight (28) of the participants live in Nome. Sixteen (16) trainees traveled to Nome from eleven (11) smaller Norton Sound communities and villages. One (1) person from Kotzebue also traveled to Nome to attend the training

Little Diomede (2)	Shaktoolik (1)
Elim (2)	Shismarif (2)
Gambell (2)	Teller (1)
Kotzebue (1)	Unalakleet (1)
Koyuk (2)	Wales (2)
Nome (28)	White Mountain (1)

Participants included:

Correction personnel (4)

Adult probation officer, juvenile probation officers (3)

Government agency staff (2)

OCS – children’s services specialists

Health professionals (3)

public health nurse, hospital phlebotomist, hospital human resources

Law enforcement officers (5)

State trooper, police chiefs (2), VPOs (2)

Mental health professionals (3)

Tribal government/Tribal government agency staff (10)

Kawerak community family services worker ICWA workers for Kawerak, Nome Eskimo Community, and the Native Village of Diomede (4), Family preservation specialist, Nome Community Center, Shismaref IRA council member and tribal family coordinators from White Mountain, Shismaref and Wales (3)

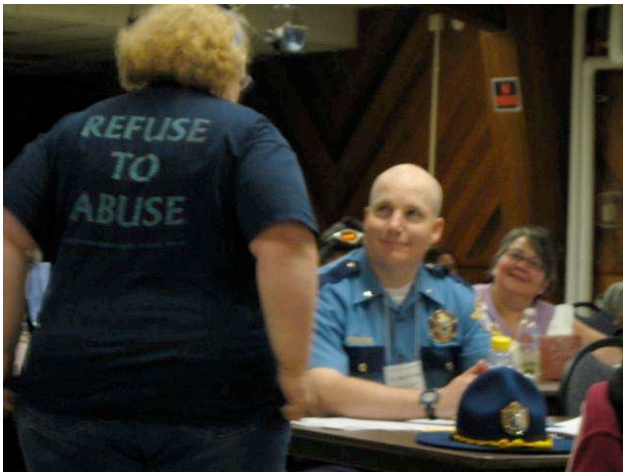
Victim advocates (17)

BSWG advocates (4), lead advocate, legal advocate, tribal victims advocate, rural victim services coordinator, village safe home representatives (6), attendant, administrative assistant, Headstart family advocate

Other (1)

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation housing manager

Presentations



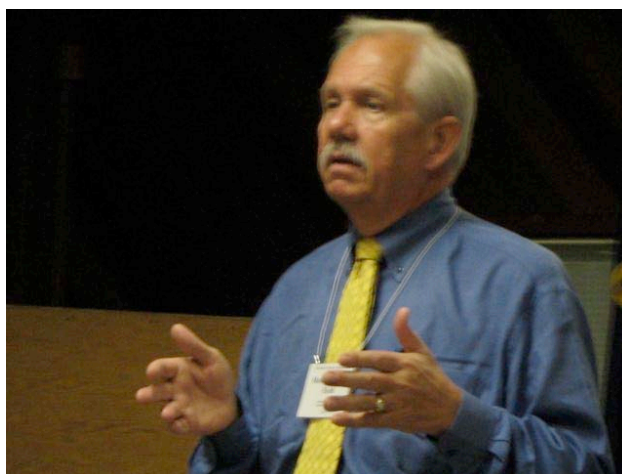
Patti Bland, ANDVSA Director of Training (left) talks with participants about the basic dynamics of domestic violence. Mary Miller of Nome (right) discusses the historical trauma suffered by Alaska Native people and about healing spirits and rebuilding community.



Jenn King, ANDVSA Pro-Bono Attorney (left) explains protective orders, divorce and child custody, civil legal actions that can be taken by domestic violence survivors. Sergeant Andrew Merrill of the Alaska State Troopers (right) introduces the VPSOs and explains state laws, mandatory arrest policies and law enforcement response.



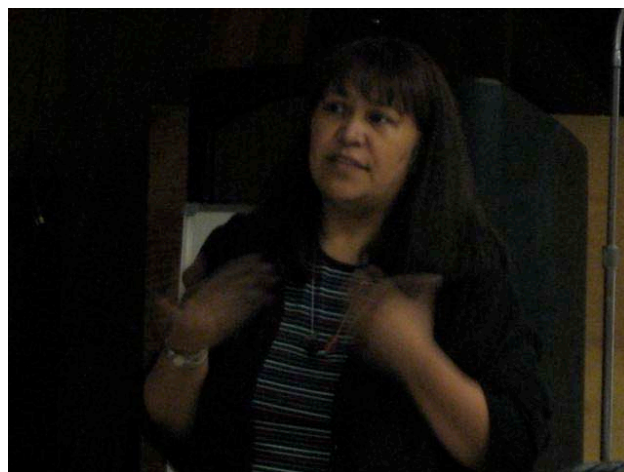
Sergeant Merrill (left) and Christine King, Program Coordinator at UAA's Center for Human Development (right) talk about abuse to vulnerable adults who are elderly or have disabilities.



Nome District Attorney John Earthman (left) and Nome Superior Court Judge Ben Esch (right) explain how prosecutors make decisions about criminal cases and the role of the Court system in civil cases (protection orders, divorce and child custody) as well as in criminal cases.



Patti Bland (left center) engages village safe home providers in developing advocacy and safety plans for victims and their families. Andrea Browning, ANDVSA Legal Advocacy Project Coordinator (center right) tests the group's knowledge of domestic violence legal terms in a fun game of Jeopardy.



Kevin Illingworth, UAF Professor of Tribal Management (left) and Linda McLaughlin, ANJC Advocate/Trainer explain how tribal courts can develop the tools needed to address domestic violence and how the Alaska Native Justice Center can help.

Faculty and Staff

Thirteen (13) faculty and staff participated in or presented at the forum.

Patricia Bland, ANDVSA, Director of Training

Andrea Browning, ANDVSA, Legal Advocacy Project Coordinator

Ben Esch, Alaska Court System, Superior Court Judge

Sherrie Goll, CDVSA, Project Coordinator

Jo Griggs, CDVSA, Business Manager

Kevin Illingworth, UAA, Assistant Professor of Tribal Management

Christine King, UAA Center for Human Development, Project Coordinator

Jennifer King, ANDVSA, Pro-Bono Attorney

Maureen (Mo) Koezuna, Victim/Witness Paralegal, Nome Office of the District Attorney

Mary Miller, Nome

John Earthman, District Attorney, Nome Office of the District Attorney

Sergeant Andrew Merrill, Alaska State Troopers, Nome

Linda McLaughlin, Alaska Native Justice Center, Victim Advocate/Trainer

Training Content Areas

Domestic Violence and Victim Advocacy

Abuse of vulnerable adults
Advocate response
Confidentiality and legal advocacy
Domestic violence overview, dynamics, services
Safety planning for victims/survivors
Sexual assault overview
Stalking overview

Justice System

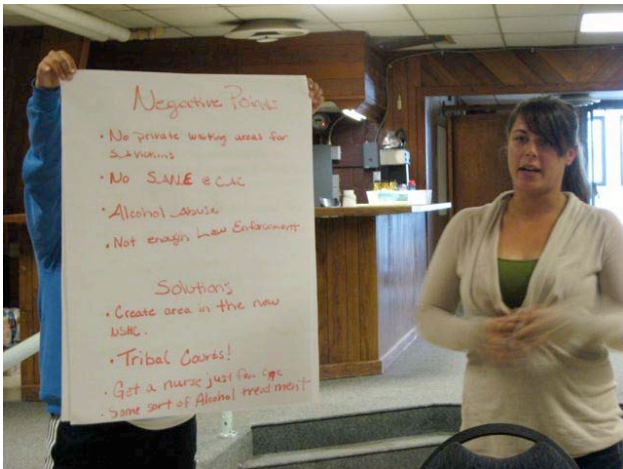
Civil court procedures
Criminal court procedures
Decreasing dual arrests/ID of primary aggressor
Domestic violence statutes and codes
Law enforcement response
Judicial Response
Pro-arrest policies
Prosecution response
Protection orders (including full faith and credit)
Sexual assault statutes and codes
Stalking statutes and codes
Tribal jurisdiction and PL 280
Victims' Rights

Underserved Populations

Issues specific to victims/survivors who:

- live in rural areas
- are Alaska Natives
- have substance abuse or mental health problems
- are elderly or have a disability

Local Challenges and Solutions



NORTON SOUND CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Bering Sea Women's Group (shelter) serving 16 villages
Transporting victims in from the region for shelter
Provide clothing food and basic necessities for victims in a crime
Safe home providers Diomedes, White Mountain, Uanlakleet, training
Men can be helped through the women's shelter
SART team
More village travel, information, education to villagers
Safety patrol
Law enforcement – hiring VPSOs
PSA resources information
Public awareness – talking about it
Encourage reporting
Talk to kids – hands are not for hitting use your voice
Kawqerak ICWA and Nome Eskimo ICWA
Kawerak Child Advocacy Center
Posters sent to villages by CAC
Local OCS
Child protective orders
Nome youth court
Nome youth facility
Wellness conference – youth involved
Jacobs House
AA meetings at the Catholic Church
Family game nights – White Mountain
Eskimo dancing
Putting away subsistence food
Working well with NSHC, police, airlines, Kawerak
City Council and IRA working together
Collaboration with other agencies
Friendly environment – community support

SOME CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Challenge	Lack of education, awareness and reporting
Solution	Public education Create preventive programs More forums Advertisements Teach consequences of DV
Challenge	Victim's have no safe laces to "talk", no one to talk to, no where to go, no extra money to leave
Solution	Local shelter and support More safe places to hang out, for people to talk and reclaim their dignity
Challenge	Not enough safe home providers for our victims due to criminal history
Solution	Resources for recruiting more safe home providers

Challenge	Lack of housing and subsidized housing for victims
Solutions	Ongoing collaboration between agencies
Challenge	Lack of resources for male victims and batterers, men have “no purpose”, no vocational training available locally
Solution	Advocate for men’s facilities Treatment for the abuser Give perpetrators incentives by providing worthwhile training and community services: give them some hope
Challenge	Medical staff needs to respond more quickly to SART
Solution	Develop multi-disciplinary teams to resolve SART issues Funding for more staff
Challenge	No private waiting areas for SA victims
Solution	Create area in the new NSHC
Challenge	NO SANE at CAC
Solution	Get a nurse just for CAC
Challenge	Lack of resources and community gathering places
Solution	Find and write grants List of resources available
Challenge	Working on juvenile protective orders
Solution	Better agency communications Parenting classes Parent advisory committee–IRA Preventive education
Challenge	Lack of intervention, no law enforcement, interrelated in small communities
Solution	Community ownership More than 1 law officer in the villages IRAs power to use the power that they have for TPO Tribal courts!
Challenge	Loss of traditional values and respect for elders, grieving loss of language and culture
Solution	Education for the youth utilizing the elders Return to traditional values Need people to face the core issues of their pain and find ways to release
Challenge	Alcohol abuse
Solution	Some sort of alcohol treatment
OTHER CHALLENGES	Bootlegging Funding problems with SART Safe home provider burn-out Cycle of violence continues No anger management classes Weather, Distance, High fuel costs